

Amendments to the Abstract:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is proposed for the estimating of the residual service life of an apparatus which is subjected to ~~a wear~~ wear during operation, ~~with the following steps: a) for steps.~~ For at least one characteristic parameter (T) which is sensitive to the wear (V), a relationship is determined to a time parameter (A) which is representative for the operating ~~period; b) period,~~ and a limit value (G) is fixed for the characteristic parameter (T) which gives the maximum permitted ~~wear; e) a wear.~~ A code field (KF) is established which gives a relationship between the characteristic parameter (T), the time parameter (A) and the wear (V); ~~d) (V),~~ actual values are determined for the characteristic parameter (T) in dependence on the time parameter (A) with the aid of data obtained by a ~~measurement; e) measurement, and~~ the instantaneously present wear (V) is determined from the actual values with reference in each case to the code field (~~KF~~); ~~f) starting (KF).~~ Starting from the instantaneous actual value of the characteristic parameter (T), a determination is made by means of extrapolation to the limit value (G) of the end value of the time parameter (A) for which the maximum permitted wear is ~~reached; g) reached, and~~ the residual service life (RL) is estimated by a comparison of this end value with the value for the time parameter which belongs to the instantaneously present wear.

(Fig. 3)